

# **EXHIBIT B**

10/8/2019 3:13:08 PM  
Marilyn Burgess - District Clerk  
Harris County  
Envelope No: 37483787  
By: WIMBLEY, TAHJ M  
File: 10/8/2019 3:13:08 PM

2019-74071 / Court: 234  
**Marilyn Burgess - Harris County District Clerk**

**Request for Issuance of Service**

CASE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ CURRENT COURT: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Documents to be served: **Plaintiff's Original Petition, Jury Demand and Request for Disclosure**

FILE DATE: **October 8, 2019**

SERVICE TO BE ISSUED ON (Please List Exactly As The Name Appears In The Pleading To Be Served):

Issue Service to: **United Property & Casualty Insurance Company**

Address of Service: **1999 Bryan Street, Suite 900**

City, State & Zip: **Dallas, Texas 75201**

Issue Service to: **Matthew Welch**

Address of Service: **11542 Gold Nugget**

City, State & Zip: **College Station, Texas 77845**

Agent (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPE OF SERVICE/PROCESS TO BE ISSUED:** (Check the proper Box)

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citation                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Citation by Posting           | <input type="checkbox"/> Citation by Publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Citations Rule 106 Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Citation Scire Facias                  | Newspaper _____  |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Restraining Order            | <input type="checkbox"/> Precept                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice                  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protective Order                       |  |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary of State Citation ( \$12.00) | <input type="checkbox"/> Capias (not an E-Issuance)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Attachment              |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certiorari                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Highway Commission ( \$12.00) |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner of Insurance (\$12.00)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Hague Convention (\$16.00)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Garnishment             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Habeas Corpus                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Injunction                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sequestration           |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Subpoena                               |  |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Describe) _____          |  |  |   |

(See additional Forms for Post Judgment Service)

**SERVICE BY (check one):**

☐ ATTORNEY PICK-UP (phone) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ CONSTABLE

☐ MAIL to attorney at: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ CERTIFIED MAIL by District Clerk ☐ E-Issuance by District Clerk (No Service Copy Fees Charged)

(Note:) CAPIAS is not an E-Issuance Option

☒ **CIVIL PROCESS SERVER - Authorized Person to Pick-up: LDM Process Service**  
Phone: (469) 291-5005

☐ **OTHER**, *dbullock@cwilsonlaw.com*

Issuance of Service Requested By: Attorney/Party Name: **Chad T. Wilson Law Firm, PLLC**

Bar # or ID: **24079587**

Mailing Address: **455 East Medical Center, Suite 555, Webster, Texas 77598**

Phone Number: **832-415-1432**



I, Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record filed and or recorded in my office, electronically or hard copy, as it appears on this date.

Witness my official hand and seal of office this November 13, 2019

Certified Document Number: 87512045 Total Pages: 2

Marilyn Burgess, DISTRICT CLERK  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

**In accordance with Texas Government Code 406.013 electronically transmitted authenticated documents are valid. If there is a question regarding the validity of this document and or seal please e-mail [support@hcdistrictclerk.com](mailto:support@hcdistrictclerk.com)**



**Service of Process  
Transmittal**

10/17/2019

CT Log Number 536452494

**TO:** JOHN HENLEY  
UPC Insurance (NASDAQ: UIHC)  
800 2ND AVENUE SOUTH  
SAINT PETERSBURG, FL 33701

**RE: Process Served in Texas**

**FOR:** United Property & Casualty Insurance Company (Domestic State: FL)

**ENCLOSED ARE COPIES OF LEGAL PROCESS RECEIVED BY THE STATUTORY AGENT OF THE ABOVE COMPANY AS FOLLOWS:**

**TITLE OF ACTION:** ZHAO, D1 XIANG, Pltf. vs. UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY, Dfts.  
// To: United Property & Casualty Insurance Company

**DOCUMENT(S) SERVED:** Citation, Petition, Attachment(s)

**COURT/AGENCY:** 234th Judicial District Court Harris County, TX  
Case # 201974071

**NATURE OF ACTION:** Insurance Litigation

**ON WHOM PROCESS WAS SERVED:** C T Corporation System, Dallas, TX

**DATE AND HOUR OF SERVICE:** By Process Server on 10/17/2019 at 10:41

**JURISDICTION SERVED :** Texas

**APPEARANCE OR ANSWER DUE:** By 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you  
were served this citation and petition

**ATTORNEY(S) / SENDER(S):** Chad T. Wilson  
Chad T Wilson Law Firm PLLC  
455 East Medical Center Blvd., Suite 555  
Webster, TX 77598  
832-415-1432

**ACTION ITEMS:** SOP Papers with Transmittal, via UPS Next Day Air , 1ZX212780118815634  
Image SOP  
Email Notification, Legal Department LAWSUIT@upcinsurance.com  
Email Notification, Tracey Reed treed@upcinsurance.com  
Email Notification, Gilbert Rodriguez grodriguez@upcinsurance.com

**SIGNED:** C T Corporation System  
**ADDRESS:** 8020 Excelsior Dr Ste 200  
Madison, WI 53717-1998

**For Questions:** 877-467-3525  
SmallBusinessTeam@wolterskluwer.com

CAUSE NO. 201974071

RECEIPT NO.

0.00

CIV

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TR # 73683275

PLAINTIFF: ZHAO, DI XIANG

vs.

DEFENDANT: UNITED PROPERTY &amp; CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY

In The 234th  
Judicial District Court  
of Harris County, Texas  
234TH DISTRICT COURT  
Houston, TX

## CITATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
County of HarrisTO: UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY (A FLORIDA INSURANCE  
COMPANY) BY SERVING ITS REGISTERED AGENT  
1999 BRYAN STREET DALLAS TX 75201Attached is a copy of PLAINTIFFS ORIGINAL PETITION JURY DEMAND AND REQUEST FOR DISCLOSUREThis instrument was filed on the 8th day of October, 2019, in the above cited cause number  
and court. The instrument attached describes the claim against you.YOU HAVE BEEN SUED, You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a  
written answer with the District Clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday  
next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition,  
a default judgment may be taken against you.

## TO OFFICER SERVING:

This citation was issued on 9th day of October, 2019, under my hand and  
seal of said Court.Issued at request of:WILSON, CHAD TROY  
455 EAST MEDICAL CENTER BLVD  
SUITE 555  
WEBSTER, TX 77598  
Tel: (832) 415-1432  
Bar No.: 24079587*Marilyn Burgess*MARILYN BURGESS, District Clerk  
Harris County, Texas  
201 Caroline, Houston, Texas 77002  
(P.O. Box 4651, Houston, Texas 77210)

Generated By: WIMBLEY, TAHJ MESHAIE ISI//11351266

## OFFICER/AUTHORIZED PERSON RETURN

Came to hand at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M., on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

Executed at (address) \_\_\_\_\_ in

\_\_\_\_\_ County at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M., on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_, by delivering to \_\_\_\_\_ defendant, in person, a

true copy of this Citation together with the accompanying \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of the Petition

attached thereto and I endorsed on said copy of the Citation the date of delivery.

To certify which I affix my hand officially this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

FEE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ County, Texas

Affiant

By \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy

On this day, \_\_\_\_\_, known to me to be the person whose  
signature appears on the foregoing return, personally appeared. After being by me duly sworn,  
he/she stated that this citation was executed by him/her in the exact manner recited on the  
return.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

Notary Public

N. INT. CITR. P

\*73683275\*

10/15/19  
51-21-01

CAUSE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DI XIANG ZHAO,

*Plaintiff,*

V.

UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY  
INSURANCE COMPANY  
AND MATTHEW WELCH,

*Defendants.*

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IN THE JUDICIAL COURT OF

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT COURT

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**PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION, JURY DEMAND,  
AND REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE**

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TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW, Di Xiang Zhao, ("Plaintiff"), and files **Plaintiff's Original Petition, Jury Demand, and Request for Disclosure**, complaining of United Property & Casualty Insurance Company ("UPC") and Matthew Welch ("Welch") (or collectively "Defendants") and for cause of action, Plaintiff respectfully shows the following:

**DISCOVERY CONTROL PLAN**

1. Plaintiff intends to conduct discovery under Level 3, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 190.4 and 169.

**PARTIES**

2. Plaintiff, Di Xiang Zhao, resides in Harris County, Texas.
3. Defendant, United Property & Casualty Insurance Company, is a Florida insurance company engaged in the business of insurance in the State of Texas. Plaintiff requests service of citation upon United Property & Casualty Insurance Company through its registered agent for service: 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 900, Dallas, Texas 75201. Plaintiff

requests service at this time.

4. Defendant Matthew Welch is an individual resident of College Station, Texas. Welch may be served with citation at the address listed with the Texas Department of Insurance: **11542 Gold Nugget, College Station, Texas 77845**. Plaintiff requests service at this time.

#### **JURISDICTION**

5. The Court has jurisdiction over UPC because this Defendant engages in the business of insurance in the State of Texas, and the causes of action arise out of UPC's business activities in the state, including those in Harris County, Texas, with reference to this specific case.
6. The Court has jurisdiction over Welch because this Defendant engages in the business of adjusting insurance claims in the State of Texas, and the causes of action arise out of this Defendant's business activities in the State of Texas, including those in Harris County, Texas, with reference to this specific case.

#### **VENUE**

7. Venue is proper in Harris County, Texas because the insured property is located in Harris County, Texas, and all or a substantial part of the events giving rise to this lawsuit occurred in Harris County, Texas. TEX. CIV. PRAC. & REM. CODE § 15.032.

#### **FACTS**

8. Plaintiff asserts claims for fraud, breach of contract, violations of sections 541 and 542 of the Texas Insurance Code, and violations of the Texas DTPA.
9. Plaintiff owns an United Property & Casualty Insurance Company homeowner's insurance policy, number UTD75412080242 ("the Policy"). At all relevant times, Plaintiff owned the insured premises located at 15407 Sableton Crest Cypress, Texas 77429 ("the



Property").

10. UPC or its agent sold the Policy, insuring the Property, to Plaintiff. UPC or its agent represented to Plaintiff that the Policy included wind and hailstorm coverage for damage to Plaintiff's home. UPC has refused the full extent of that coverage currently owed to Plaintiff.
11. On or about May 9, 2019, the Property sustained extensive damage resulting from a severe storm that passed through the Cypress, Texas area.
12. In the aftermath of the wind and hailstorm, Plaintiff submitted a claim to UPC against the Policy for damage to the Property. UPC assigned claim number 2019TX122428 to Plaintiff's claim.
13. Plaintiff asked UPC to cover the cost of damage to the Property pursuant to the Policy.
14. Damaged areas of the property include, but are not limited to the roof, vents and flashings.
15. UPC assigned or hired Welch to adjust the claim.
  - a. Welch had a vested interest in undervaluing the claims assigned to him by UPC in order to maintain his employment. The disparity in the number of damaged items in his report compared to that of Plaintiff's Third-Party Adjuster's is evidence of fraud on the part of Welch. The valuation of damages that were included in Welch's report compared to Plaintiff's Third-Party Adjuster's is also evidence of fraud on the part of Welch.
  - b. Furthermore, Welch was aware of Plaintiff's deductible before visiting the Property to conduct the inspection. Welch had advanced knowledge of what amount of damages he needed to find in order to either deny the claim or find the claim below the deductible.

- c. Welch made misrepresentations as to the amount of damage Plaintiff's Property sustained as well as misrepresentations regarding how much it would cost to repair the damage to Plaintiff's Property.
  - d. Welch made further misrepresentations to Plaintiff during his inspection. Welch used his expertise to fabricate plausible explanations for why visible damage to Plaintiff's Property would not be covered under the policy. Such misrepresentations include damage to the Property owing from wear and tear, damage from a previous claim, and damage of a type not consistent with the type of claim that was made.
- 16. UPC, through its agents, namely Welch, conducted a substandard and improper inspection and adjustment of the Property, which yielded grossly inaccurate and unrealistic assessments of the cause, extent, and dollar amount of damage to the Property.
  - 17. The initial adjustment of the claim occurred on or around May 22, 2019. Welch found that there was no damage from a covered peril to the roof of the property.
  - 18. After application of the policy deductible, Plaintiff was left without adequate recovery to complete proper repairs on Plaintiff's home
  - 19. To date, Plaintiff has received \$0.00 for damage to Plaintiff's Property. The damage to Plaintiff's Property is currently estimated at \$10,614.50.
  - 20. Since due demand was made on August 1, 2019, UPC has not communicated that any future settlements or payments would be forthcoming to pay for the entire loss covered under the Policy, nor did it provide any explanation for failing to settle Plaintiff's claim properly.
  - 21. As stated above, Defendants failed to assess the claim thoroughly. Based upon Defendants' grossly unreasonable, intentional, and reckless failure to investigate and adjust the claim

properly, UPC failed to provide full coverage due under the Policy.

22. As a result of UPC's failure to provide full coverage, along with UPC's delay tactics to avoid reasonable payment to Plaintiff, Plaintiff has suffered damages.
23. UPC failed to perform its contractual duties to Plaintiff under the terms of the Policy. Specifically, UPC refused to pay the full proceeds of the Policy, although due demand was made for an amount sufficient to cover repairs to the damaged Property, and all conditions precedent to recover upon the Policy were accomplished by Plaintiff.
24. Defendants' misrepresentations, unreasonable delays, and continued denials constitute a breach of the statutory obligations under Chapters 541 and 542 of the Texas Insurance Code. Thus, the breach of the statutory duties constitutes the foundation of a breach of the insurance contract between UPC and Plaintiff.
25. Defendants' conduct constitutes a violation of the Texas Insurance Code, Unfair Settlement Practices. TEX. INS. CODE §541.060(a)(1). Defendants have not attempted to settle Plaintiff's claim in a fair manner, even though Defendants were aware of their liability to Plaintiff under the Policy. Specifically, Defendants have failed to timely pay Plaintiff's coverage due under the Policy.
26. Defendants' conduct constitutes a violation of the Texas Insurance Code, Unfair Settlement Practices. TEX. INS. CODE §541.060(a)(2)(A). Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff a reasonable explanation for not making the full payment under the terms of the Policy.
27. Defendants' conduct constitutes a violation of the Texas Insurance Code, Unfair Settlement Practices. TEX. INS. CODE §541.060(a)(4). Defendants refused to provide full coverage due to Plaintiff under the terms of the Policy. Specifically, UPC, through its agents, servants, and representatives, namely Welch, performed an outcome-oriented investigation

of Plaintiff's claim, which resulted in a biased, unfair, and inequitable evaluation of Plaintiff's losses on the Property.

28. Defendants' conduct constitutes a violation of the Texas Insurance Code, Prompt Payment of Claims. TEX. INS. CODE §542.055. Defendants failed to reasonably accept or deny Plaintiff's full claim within the statutorily mandated time after receiving all necessary information.
29. Defendants' conduct constitutes a violation of the Texas Insurance Code, Prompt Payment of Claims. TEX. INS. CODE §542.056. Defendants failed to meet their obligations under the Texas Insurance Code regarding timely payment of the claim. Specifically, Defendants have delayed payment of Plaintiff's claim longer than allowed, and Plaintiff has not received full payment for the claim.
30. Defendants' wrongful acts and omissions forced Plaintiff to retain the professional services of the attorneys and law firm representing them with respect to these causes of action.

**CAUSES OF ACTION AGAINST DEFENDANT UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY  
INSURANCE COMPANY**

**BREACH OF CONTRACT**

31. All allegations above are incorporated herein.
32. UPC is liable to Plaintiff for intentional violations of the Texas Insurance Code, and intentional breach of the common-law duty of good faith and fair dealing. It follows, then, that the breach of the statutory duties constitutes the foundation of an intentional breach of the insurance contract between UPC and Plaintiff.

33. UPC's failure and/or refusal to pay adequate coverage as obligated under the terms of the Policy, and under the laws of the State of Texas, constitutes a breach of the insurance contract with Plaintiff.

**NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE TEXAS INSURANCE CODE:  
UNFAIR SETTLEMENT PRACTICES**

34. All allegations above are incorporated herein.
35. UPC's conduct constitutes multiple violations of the Texas Insurance Code, Unfair Settlement Practices. TEX. INS. CODE §541.060(a). All violations under this article are actionable by TEX. INS. CODE §541.151.
36. UPC's unfair settlement practice of misrepresenting to Plaintiff material facts relating to coverage constitutes an unfair method of competition and a deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. TEX. INS. CODE §541.060(a)(1).
37. UPC's unfair settlement practice of failing to attempt in good faith to make a prompt, fair, and equitable settlement of the claim, even though liability under the Policy was reasonably clear, constitutes an unfair method of competition and a deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. TEX. INS. CODE §541.060(a)(2)(A).
38. UPC's unfair settlement practice of failing to provide Plaintiff a prompt and reasonable explanation of the basis in the Policy, in relation to the facts or applicable law, for partial denial of the claim, constitutes an unfair method of competition and a deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. TEX. INS. CODE §541.060(a)(3).
39. UPC's unfair settlement practice of failing within a reasonable time to affirm or deny coverage of the claim to Plaintiff constitutes an unfair method of competition and a deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. TEX. INS. CODE §541.060(a)(4).

40. UPC's unfair settlement practice of refusing to pay Plaintiff's claim without conducting a reasonable investigation constitutes an unfair method of competition and a deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. TEX. INS. CODE §541.060(a)(7).

**NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE TEXAS INSURANCE CODE:  
THE PROMPT PAYMENT OF CLAIMS**

41. All allegations above are incorporated herein.
42. UPC's conduct constitutes multiple violations of the Texas Insurance Code, Prompt Payment of Claims. All violations made under this article are actionable by TEX. INS. CODE §542.060.
43. UPC's failure to notify Plaintiff in writing of its acceptance or rejection of the full claim within the applicable time constraints constitutes a non-prompt payment in violation of TEX. INS. CODE §542.056.
44. UPC's delay in paying Plaintiff's claim following receipt of all items, statements, and forms reasonably requested and required, for longer than the amount of time provided, constitutes a non-prompt payment of the claim. TEX. INS. CODE §542.058.

**BREACH OF THE DUTY OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING**

45. All allegations above are incorporated herein.
46. UPC's conduct constitutes a breach of the common-law duty of good faith and fair dealing owed to an insured in insurance contracts.
47. UPC's failure to adequately and reasonably investigate and evaluate Plaintiff's claim, although, at that time, UPC knew or should have known by the exercise of reasonable diligence that liability was reasonably clear, constitutes a breach of the duty of good faith and fair dealing.

### **DTPA VIOLATIONS**

48. All allegations above are incorporated herein.
49. UPC's conduct constitutes multiple violations of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act ("DTPA"), TEX. BUS. & COM. CODE 17.41–63. Plaintiff is a consumer of goods and services provided by UPC pursuant to the DTPA. Plaintiff has met all conditions precedent to bringing this cause of action against UPC. Specifically, UPC's violations of the DTPA include, without limitation, the following matters:
- A. By its acts, omissions, failures, and conduct, UPC has violated sections 17.46(b)(2), (5), (7), (9), (12), (20) and (24) of the DTPA. UPC's violations include without limitation, (1) unreasonable delays in the investigation, adjustment, and resolution of Plaintiff's claim, (2) failure to give Plaintiff the benefit of the doubt, and (3) failure to pay for the proper repair of Plaintiff's property when liability has become reasonably clear, which gives Plaintiff the right to recover under section 17.46(b)(2).
  - B. UPC represented to Plaintiff that the Policy and UPC's adjusting, and investigative services had characteristics or benefits that they did not possess, which gives Plaintiff the right to recover under section 17.46(b)(5) of the DTPA.
  - C. UPC also represented to Plaintiff that the Policy and UPC's adjusting services were of a particular standard, quality, or grade when they were of another, in violation of section 17.46(b)(7) of the DTPA.
  - D. Furthermore, UPC advertised the Policy and adjusting services with the intent not to sell them as advertised, in violation of section 17.46(b)(9) of the DTPA.

- E. UPC breached an express warranty that the damages caused by wind and hail would be covered under the Policy. This breach entitles Plaintiff to recover under sections 17.46(b)(12) and (20) and 17.50(a)(2) of the DTPA.
- F. UPC's actions are unconscionable in that UPC took advantage of Plaintiff's lack of knowledge, ability, and experience to a grossly unfair degree. UPC's unconscionable conduct gives Plaintiff a right to relief under section 17.50(a)(3) of the DTPA; and
- G. UPC's conduct, acts, omissions, and failures, as described in this petition, are unfair practices in the business of insurance in violation of section 17.50(a)(4) of the DTPA.

50. Each of the above-described acts, omissions, and failures of UPC is a producing cause of Plaintiff's damages. All of the above-described acts, omissions, and failures were committed "knowingly" and "intentionally," as defined by the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

#### **FRAUD**

- 51. All allegations above are incorporated herein.
- 52. UPC is liable to Plaintiff for common-law fraud.
- 53. Each and every misrepresentation described above concerned material facts that absent such representations, Plaintiff would not have acted as Plaintiff did, and UPC knew its representations were false or made recklessly without any knowledge of their truth as a positive assertion.



54. UPC made the statements intending that Plaintiff act upon them. Plaintiff then acted in reliance upon the statements, thereby causing Plaintiff to suffer injury constituting common-law fraud.

**CAUSES OF ACTION AGAINST DEFENDANT MATTHEW WELCH**

**NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE TEXAS INSURANCE CODE:  
UNFAIR SETTLEMENT PRACTICES**

55. All allegations above are incorporated herein.
56. Welch's conduct constitutes multiple violations of the Texas Insurance Code, Unfair Claim Settlement Practices Act. TEX. INS. CODE §541.060(a).
57. Welch is individually liable for his unfair and deceptive acts, irrespective of the fact that he was acting on behalf of UPC, because Welch is a "person," as defined by TEX. INS. CODE §541.002(2).
58. Welch knowingly underestimated the amount of damage to the Property. As such, Welch failed to adopt and implement reasonable standards for the investigation of the claim arising under the Policy. TEX. INS. CODE §542.003(3).
59. Furthermore, Welch did not attempt in good faith to affect a fair, prompt, and equitable settlement of the claim. TEX. INS. CODE §542.003(4).
60. Welch's unfair settlement practice of failing to provide Plaintiff a prompt and reasonable explanation of the basis in the Policy, in relation to the facts or applicable law, for partial denial of the claim, also constitutes an unfair method of competition and an unfair and deceptive act or practice. TEX. INS. CODE §541.060(a)(3).
61. Welch's unfair settlement practice of failing to attempt in good faith to make a prompt, fair, and equitable settlement of the claim, even though liability under the Policy was

reasonably clear, constitutes an unfair method of competition and a deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. TEX. INS. CODE §541.060(a)(2)(A).

#### **DTPA VIOLATIONS**

62. All allegations above are incorporated herein.
63. Welch's conduct constitutes multiple violations of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act ("DTPA"), TEX. BUS. & COM. CODE 17.41–63. Plaintiff is a consumer of goods and services provided by Welch pursuant to the DTPA. Plaintiff has met all conditions precedent to bringing this cause of action against Welch. Specifically, Welch's violations of the DTPA include the following matters:
  - A. By this Defendant's acts, omissions, failures, and conduct, Welch has violated sections 17.46(b)(2), (5), and (7) of the DTPA. Welch's violations include, (1) failure to give Plaintiff the benefit of the doubt, and (2) failure to write up an estimate reflecting the proper repair of Plaintiff's Property when liability has become reasonably clear, which gives Plaintiff the right to recover under section 17.46(b)(2).
  - B. Welch represented to Plaintiff that the Policy and his adjusting and investigative services had characteristics or benefits they did not possess, which gives Plaintiff the right to recover under section 17.46(b)(5) of the DTPA.
  - C. Welch represented to Plaintiff that the Policy and his adjusting services were of a particular standard, quality, or grade when they were of another, in violation of section 17.46(b)(7) of the DTPA.
  - D. Welch's actions are unconscionable in that Welch took advantage of Plaintiff's lack of knowledge, ability, and experience to a grossly unfair degree. Welch's

unconscionable conduct gives Plaintiff a right to relief under section 17.50(a)(3) of the DTPA; and

E. Welch's conduct, acts, omissions, and failures, as described in this petition, are unfair practices in the business of insurance in violation of section 17.50(a)(4) of the DTPA.

64. Each of Welch's above-described acts, omissions, and failures is a producing cause of Plaintiff's damages. All acts, omissions, and failures were committed "knowingly" and "intentionally" by Welch, as defined by the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act. TEX. BUS. & COM. CODE 17.45.

#### **FRAUD**

65. All allegations above are incorporated herein.

66. UPC assigned or hired Welch to adjust the claim.

- a. Welch had a vested interest in undervaluing the claims assigned to him by UPC in order to maintain his employment. The disparity in the number of damaged items in his report compared to that of Plaintiff's Third-Party Adjuster's is evidence of fraud on the part of Welch. The valuation of damages that were included in Welch's report compared to Plaintiff's Third-Party Adjuster's is also evidence of fraud on the part of Welch.
- b. Furthermore, Welch was aware of Plaintiff's deductible before even visiting the Property to conduct the inspection. Welch had advanced knowledge of what amount of damages he needed to find in order to either deny the claim or find the claim below the deductible.
- c. Welch made misrepresentations as to the amount of damage Plaintiff's Property

sustained as well as misrepresentations regarding how much it would cost to repair the damage to Plaintiff's property.

- d. Welch made further misrepresentations to Plaintiff during his inspection. Welch used his expertise to fabricate plausible explanations for why visible damage to Plaintiff's Property would not be covered under the policy. Such misrepresentations include damage to the Property owing from wear and tear, damage from a previous claim, and damage of a type not consistent with the type of claim that was made.

#### **NEGLIGENCE**

67. All allegations above are incorporated herein.
68. Welch was negligent in his actions with regard to his adjusting of Plaintiff's claim and violated the standard of care for an insurance adjuster licensed in the state of Texas. Those failures include one or more of the following acts or omissions:
  - a. Failure to conduct a reasonable inspection;
  - b. Failure to include covered damage that would be discovered as a result of reasonable inspection;
  - c. Failure to identify the proper cause and scope of the damage to Plaintiff's Property;
  - d. Failure to identify the cost of proper repairs to Plaintiff's Property; and
  - e. Failure to communicate to Plaintiff the reasons for specific determinations made regarding the inclusion or exclusion of damage to Plaintiff's Property.
69. Welch's acts and/or omissions constitute negligence. His conduct was therefore a proximate cause of the damages sustained by Plaintiff.
70. At all relevant times, Welch was an agent or employee of Defendant UPC.

71. Welch's unreasonable inspection was performed within the course and scope of his duties with Defendant UPC. Therefore, UPC is also liable for the negligence of Welch through the doctrine of respondeat superior.

#### **GROSS NEGLIGENCE**

72. All allegations above are incorporated herein.
73. Welch's actions or omissions constitute gross negligence as defined in TEX. CIV. P. & REM. CODE § 41.001 (11)(A) and (B):
- a. Welch's actions, when viewed objectively from the standpoint of the actor at the time of their occurrence involves an extreme degree of risk, considering the probability and magnitude of potential harm to Plaintiff; and
  - b. Welch had actual, subjective awareness of the risk involved but nevertheless proceeded with conscious indifference to the rights, safety, and/or welfare of Plaintiffs.
74. Welch intentionally misrepresented the scope and amount of damages on the estimate prepared for Plaintiffs' Property on behalf of UPC. His estimate was to such an extreme degree below what another licensed adjuster would have done in this situation (as evidenced by the Third-Party Adjuster's estimate); it was also in complete disregard for the risk and harm Plaintiff would suffer if the actual damages to the Property were allowed to persist unrepaired.

#### **KNOWLEDGE**

75. Defendants made each of the acts described above, together and singularly, "knowingly," as defined in the Texas Insurance Code, and each was a producing cause of Plaintiff's damages described herein.

### **WAIVER AND ESTOPPEL**

76. Defendants waived and are estopped from asserting any coverage defenses, conditions, exclusions, or exceptions to coverage not contained in any reservation of rights letter to Plaintiff.

### **DAMAGES**

77. Since the claim was made, UPC has not properly compensated Plaintiff for all necessary repairs made, which are covered under the Policy. This has caused undue hardship and burden to Plaintiff. These damages are a direct result of Defendants' mishandling of Plaintiff's claim in violation of the laws set forth above.
78. Defendants made the above and other false representations to Plaintiff, either knowingly or recklessly, as a positive assertion, without knowledge of the truth. Defendants made these false misrepresentations with the intent that Plaintiff act in accordance with the misrepresentations. Plaintiff then relied on these misrepresentations, including but not limited to those regarding coverage and the cause and scope of damage. Plaintiff suffered damages as a result.
79. Plaintiff would show that all of the aforementioned acts, taken together or singularly, constitute the producing causes of damages sustained. The acts, omissions, failures, and conduct of Defendants have caused Plaintiff's damages, which include, without limitation, costs for all necessary repairs required to be made to Plaintiff's Property, and any investigative and engineering fees incurred.
80. For breach of contract, Plaintiff is entitled to regain the benefit of Plaintiff's bargain, which is the amount of Plaintiff's claim, consequential damages, together with attorney's fees.
81. The damage to Plaintiff's Property is currently estimated at \$10,614.5.

82. For noncompliance with the DTPA and Texas Insurance Code, Unfair Settlement Practices, Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages, which include the loss of the benefits owed pursuant to the Policy, court costs, and attorney's fees. For knowing and intentional conduct of the acts described above, Plaintiff asks for three (3) times Plaintiff's actual damages. TEX. INS. CODE §541.152 and TEX. BUS. & COM. CODE 17.50(B)(1).
83. For noncompliance with Texas Insurance Code, Prompt Payment of Claims, Plaintiff is entitled to the amount of Plaintiff's claim, plus an eighteen percent (18%) per annum penalty on that claim, as damages, as well as pre-judgment interest and reasonable attorney's fees. TEX. INS. CODE §542.060.
84. For breach of the common-law duty of good faith and fair dealing, Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory damages, including all forms of loss resulting from Defendants' breach of duty, such as additional costs, economic hardship, losses due to nonpayment of money UPC owed, and exemplary damages.
85. Defendants' breach of the common-law duty of good faith and fair dealing was committed intentionally, with a conscious indifference to Plaintiff's rights and welfare, and with "malice," as that term is defined in Chapter 41 of the Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code. These violations are the type of conduct which the State of Texas protects its citizens against by the imposition of exemplary damages. Therefore, Plaintiff seeks the recovery of exemplary damages in an amount determined by the finder of fact sufficient to punish Defendants for their wrongful conduct and to set an example to deter Defendants and others from committing similar acts in the future.

86. For fraud, Plaintiff is entitled to recover actual and exemplary damages for knowingly fraudulent and malicious representations, along with attorney's fees, interest, and court costs.
87. For the prosecution and collection of this claim, Plaintiff has been compelled to engage the services of the attorneys subscribed to this pleading. Therefore, under Chapter 38 of the Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code, sections 541 and 542 of the Texas Insurance Code, and section 17.50 of the DTPA, Plaintiff is entitled to recover a sum for the reasonable and necessary services of Plaintiff's attorneys in the preparation and trial of this action, including any appeals to the Court of Appeals and/or the Supreme Court of Texas.
88. As required by Rule 47(b) of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff's counsel states that the damages sought are in an amount within the jurisdictional limits of this Court. As required by Rule 47(c)(1) of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff's counsel states that Plaintiff seeks only monetary relief of \$100,000 or less, including damages of any kind, penalties, costs, expenses, pre-judgment interest, and attorney's fees. This statement from Plaintiff's counsel is made only for the purpose of compliance with Tex. R. Civ. P. 47, and the amount in controversy does not exceed \$75,000 at this time. Plaintiff also seeks pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the highest legal rate.

#### **REQUESTS FOR DISCLOSURE**

89. Under Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 190 and 194, Plaintiff requests that Defendants disclose, within fifty (50) days from the date this request is served, the information or material described in Rules 190.2(b)(6) and 194.2.



**JURY DEMAND**

90. Plaintiff hereby requests a jury trial for all causes of action alleged herein, tried before a jury consisting of citizens residing in Harris County, Texas. Plaintiff hereby tenders the appropriate jury fee.

**PRAYER**

Plaintiff prays that Defendants, United Property & Casualty Insurance Company and Matthew Welch, be cited and served to appear, and that upon trial hereof, Plaintiff, Di Xiang Zhao, has and recovers from Defendants, United Property & Casualty Insurance Company and Matthew Welch, such sums as would reasonably and justly compensate Plaintiff in accordance with the rules of law and procedure, as to actual, consequential, and treble damages under the Texas Insurance Code and Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act, and all punitive, additional, and exemplary damages, as may be found. In addition, Plaintiff requests the award of attorney's fees for the trial and any appeal of this case, for all costs of Court expended on Plaintiff's behalf, for pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as allowed by law; and for any other and further relief, at law or in equity, to which Plaintiff, Di Xiang Zhao, may show Plaintiff is justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAD T WILSON LAW FIRM PLLC

By: /s/ Chad T. Wilson

Chad T. Wilson  
Bar No. 24079587  
Amanda J. Fulton  
Bar No. 24077283  
455 East Medical Center Blvd., Suite 555  
Webster, Texas 77598  
Telephone: (832) 415-1432  
Facsimile: (281) 940-2137  
eservice@cwilsonlaw.com

cwilson@cwilsonlaw.com  
afulton@cwilsonlaw.com

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF



**MARILYN BURGESS**  
HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK

**Civil Process Pick-Up Form**

**CAUSE NUMBER 2019-74071**

OK

**ATY**

**CIV**

**X**

**COURT 234**

**REQUESTING ATTORNEY/FIRM NOTIFICATION**

**\*ATTORNEY: WILSON, CHAD**

**PH: 832-415-1432**

**\*CIVIL PROCESS SERVER: LDM PROCESS SERVICE BOX FOR PICK UP:**

**\*PH: 469-291-5005**

**\*PERSON NOTIFIED SVC READY:**

**\* NOTIFIED BY:**

**\*DATE: \_\_\_\_\_**

Type of Service Document: Citation

Tracking Number 73683275

Type of Service Document: \_\_\_\_\_

Tracking Number 73683267

Type of Service Document: \_\_\_\_\_

Tracking Number \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Service Document: \_\_\_\_\_

Tracking Number \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Service Document: \_\_\_\_\_

Tracking Number \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Service Document: \_\_\_\_\_

Tracking Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Process papers prepared by: T. Wimbley**

**Date: 10/9/19**

**\*Process papers released to:**

713-269-0403  
**\*(CONTACT NUMBER)**

SEAN HOLLERBECK  
**(PRINT NAME)**

[Signature]  
**(SIGNATURE)**

**\*Process papers released by:**

Lisa Thomas

**(PRINT NAME)**

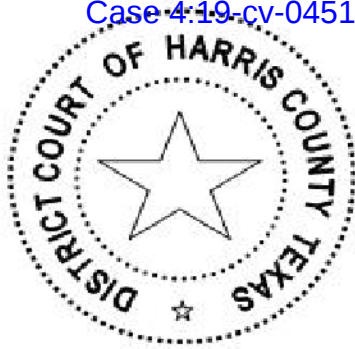
Lisa Thomas

**(SIGNATURE)**

**\* Date: 10/15, 2019 Time: \_\_\_\_\_ AM / PM**

**RECORDER'S MEMORANDUM**  
This instrument is of poor quality  
at the time of imaging

**Entire document must be completed (do not change this document) Revised 1/3/2019**



I, Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record filed and or recorded in my office, electronically or hard copy, as it appears on this date.

Witness my official hand and seal of office this November 13, 2019

Certified Document Number: 87647208 Total Pages: 1

Marilyn Burgess, DISTRICT CLERK  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

**In accordance with Texas Government Code 406.013 electronically transmitted authenticated documents are valid. If there is a question regarding the validity of this document and or seal please e-mail [support@hcdistrictclerk.com](mailto:support@hcdistrictclerk.com)**

CAUSE NO. 201974071

RECEIPT NO.

0.00

CIV

\*\*\*\*\*

TR # 73683275

PLAINTIFF: ZHAO, DI XIANG

vs.

DEFENDANT: UNITED PROPERTY &amp; CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY

In The 234th  
Judicial District Court  
of Harris County, Texas  
234TH DISTRICT COURT  
Houston, TX

## CITATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
County of Harris

TO: UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY (A FLORIDA INSURANCE  
COMPANY) BY SERVING ITS REGISTERED AGENT  
1999 BRYAN STREET DALLAS TX 75201

Attached is a copy of PLAINTIFFS ORIGINAL PETITION JURY DEMAND AND REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE

This instrument was filed on the 8th day of October, 2019, in the above cited cause number and court. The instrument attached describes the claim against you.

YOU HAVE BEEN SUED, You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the District Clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

TO OFFICER SERVING:

This citation was issued on 9th day of October, 2019, under my hand and seal of said Court.

Issued at request of:  
WILSON, CHAD TROY  
455 EAST MEDICAL CENTER ALVO  
SUITE 555  
WEBSTER, TX 77598  
Tel: (832) 415-1432  
Fax No.: 24079587



*Marilyn Burgess*  
Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk

Harris County, Texas  
201 Caroline, Houston, Texas 77002  
(P.O. Box 4651, Houston, Texas 77210)

Generated By: WIMBLEY, TAMI MESHAH LS1//11351266

## OFFICER/AUTHORIZED PERSON RETURN

Came to hand at 1:30 o'clock 1 P.M., on the 9 day of October, 2019

Executed at (address): 1999 Bryan at 900 Dallas St in

Dallas County at 10:15 o'clock A.M., on the 17 day of October,

2019, by delivering to United Property & Casualty Insurance Co. defendant, in person, a

true copy of this Citation together with the accompanying 1 copy(ies) of the Petition

attached thereto and I endorsed on said copy of the Citation the date of delivery.

To certify which I affix my hand officially this 9 day of October, 2019.

FEE: \$ 75

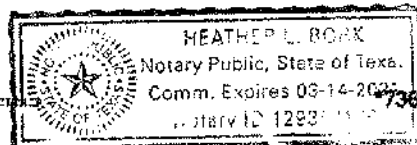
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ County, Texas

Patrice J. Halstead 16278 8-70  
Affiant

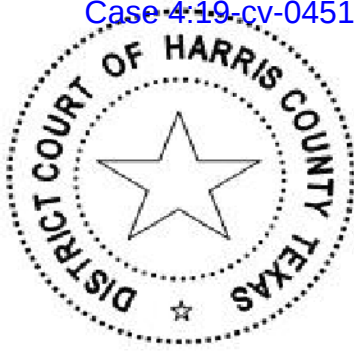
By \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy

On this day, Patrice Halstead, known to me to be the person whose signature appears on the foregoing return, personally appeared. After being by me duly sworn, he/she stated that this citation was executed by him/her in the exact manner recited on the return.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, on this 21 day of October, 2019



Heather Bork  
Notary Public



I, Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record filed and or recorded in my office, electronically or hard copy, as it appears on this date.

Witness my official hand and seal of office this November 13, 2019

Certified Document Number: 87704388 Total Pages: 1

Marilyn Burgess, DISTRICT CLERK  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

**In accordance with Texas Government Code 406.013 electronically transmitted authenticated documents are valid. If there is a question regarding the validity of this document and or seal please e-mail [support@hcdistrictclerk.com](mailto:support@hcdistrictclerk.com)**

CAUSE NO. 2019/4071

RECEIPT NO.

0.00

CIV

\*\*\*\*\*

TX # 73683267

PLAINTIFF: SHRO, DI XIANG  
vs.

DEFENDANT: UNITED PROPERTY &amp; CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY

In The 284th  
Judicial District Court  
of Harris County, Texas  
284TH DISTRICT COURT  
Houston, TX

## CITATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
County of Harris

TO: WLECH, MATTHEW

11542 GOLD NUGGET COLLEGE STATION TX 77843

Attached is a copy of PLAINTIFFS ORIGINAL PETITION JURY DEMAND AND REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE

This instrument was filed on the 8th day of October, 2019, in the above cited cause number and court. The instrument attached describes the claim against you.

YOU HAVE BEEN SURED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the District Clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

TO OFFICER SERVING:

This citation was issued on 8th day of October, 2019, under my hand and seal of said Court.

Issued at request of:  
ATLSON, CHAD PROY  
455 EAST MEDICAL CENTER BLVD  
SUITE 555  
WEBSTER, TX 77598  
Tel: (832) 415-1432  
Fax: 24079587



Marilyn Burgess

MARILYN BURGESS, District Clerk  
Harris County, Texas  
201 Caroline, Houston, Texas 77002  
(P.O. Box 4651, Houston, Texas 77210)

Generated By: WIMBLEY, TAYO MESHAE 1617/11351266

## OFFICER/AUTHORIZED PERSON RETURN

Came to hand at 5:00 o'clock P.M., on the 19 day of October, 2019.

Executed at (address) 11542 Gold Nugget College Station, TX in  
Brazos County at 5:45 o'clock P.M., on the 22 day of October,  
2019, by delivering to Matthew Welch defendant, in person, a

true copy of this Citation together with the accompanying \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of the Petition

attached thereto and I endorsed on said copy of the Citation the date of delivery.

To certify which I affix my hand officially this 22 day of October, 2019.

REC: \$

[Signature]  
Affiant

[Signature]  
of Brazos County, Texas

By Robert T. Olsen  
Deputy Lic. # 5CH02368  
Exp. 11-30-20

On this day, Robert T. Olsen, known to me to be the person whose signature appears on the foregoing return, personally appeared. After being by me duly sworn, he/she stated that this citation was executed by him/her in the exact manner recited on the return.

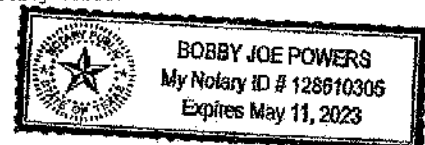
SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, on this 22 day of October, 2019.

[Signature]

Notary Public

NOTARY CLERK

\*73683267\*





I, Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record filed and or recorded in my office, electronically or hard copy, as it appears on this date.

Witness my official hand and seal of office this November 13, 2019

Certified Document Number: 87952489 Total Pages: 1

Marilyn Burgess, DISTRICT CLERK  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

**In accordance with Texas Government Code 406.013 electronically transmitted authenticated documents are valid. If there is a question regarding the validity of this document and or seal please e-mail [support@hcdistrictclerk.com](mailto:support@hcdistrictclerk.com)**



CAUSE NO: 2019-74071

DI XIANG ZHAO	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
	§	
	§	
VS.	§	HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY	§	
INSURANCE COMPANY AND	§	
MATTHEW WELCH	§	234 <sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**DEFENDANT UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY'S  
ELECTION OF LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY UNDER SECTION 542A.006 OF  
THE TEXAS INSURANCE CODE**

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW, Defendant UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY ("UPC"), and files its *Election of Legal Responsibility Under Section 542A.006 of the Texas Insurance Code* ("Election") as follows:

**I.  
RELEVANT BACKGROUND**

1. Plaintiff DI XIANG ZHAO ("ZHAO" or "Plaintiff") filed a claim with Defendant UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY ("UPC"), and claim number 2019TX122428 was adjusted by one or more individuals at UPC's request, including Defendant MATTHEW WELCH ("WELCH"). For purposes of this Election, WELCH is considered UPC's "agent" under Texas Insurance Code section 542.A.001, which defines the term "agent" as an employee, agent, representative, or adjuster who performs any act on UPC's behalf.

2. On October 8, 2019, Plaintiff filed this action on claim number 2019TX122428, naming UPC and WELCH as Defendants.

**II.**  
**ELECTION**

3. Under section 542A.006(a) of the Texas Insurance Code, Defendant UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY hereby elects to accept legal responsibility for whatever liability Defendant MATTHEW WELCH might have to Plaintiff for his acts or omissions related to claim number 2019TX122428, and by this pleading, Plaintiff is provided written notice of UPC'S Election.

**III.**  
**DISMISSAL OF DEFENDANTS WITH PREJUDICE**

4. Under section 542A.006(c) of the Texas Insurance Code and based on UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY'S Election, this Court "shall dismiss" this action against MATTHEW WELCH with prejudice. Defendant UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY hereby requests the Court enter all such documents necessary to effectuate this dismissal with prejudice, and accordingly files a proposed order simultaneously herewith.

**IV.**  
**PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Defendant UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY prays this Election be filed with the records of this cause and that Defendant MATTHEW WELCH be dismissed from this action with prejudice as mandated under Chapter 542A of the Texas Insurance Code, and for all other and further relief to which the Court deems UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

**LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP**

/s/ Sarah Smith

Sarah R. Smith  
Texas Bar No: 24056346  
Gene M. Baldonado  
Texas Bar No. 24071065  
24 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1400  
Houston, Texas 77046  
Phone: (713) 659-6767  
Fax: (713) 759-6830  
[sarah.smith@lewisbrisbois.com](mailto:sarah.smith@lewisbrisbois.com)

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT UNITED  
PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE  
COMPANY

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above pleading was served on all counsel of record by electronic filing, certified mail, and/or facsimile on this 5th day of November, 2019.

Chad T. Wilson  
Amanda J. Fulton  
CHAD T. WILSON LAW FIRM PLLC  
455 East Medical Center Blvd., Suite 555  
Webster, Texas 77598  
Phone: (832) 415-1432  
Fax: (281) 940-2137  
[cwilson@cwilsonlaw.com](mailto:cwilson@cwilsonlaw.com)  
[afulton@cwilsonlaw.com](mailto:afulton@cwilsonlaw.com)  
[eservice@cwilsonlaw.com](mailto:eservice@cwilsonlaw.com)  
*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

***Via Eservice***

/s/ Sarah R. Smith  
Sarah R. Smith

CAUSE NO: 2019-74071

DI XIANG ZHAO	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
	§	
	§	
	§	
VS.	§	HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY	§	
INSURANCE COMPANY AND	§	
MATTHEW WELCH	§	234 <sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**ORDER OF DISMISSAL WITH PREJUDICE OF DEFENDANT MATTHEW WELCH**

On this day, the Court considered the *Election of Legal Responsibility Under Section 542A.006 of the Texas Insurance Code* (the “Election”) filed by Defendant UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY. UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY has elected to accept legal responsibility in the manner required under 542A.006 of the Texas Insurance Code.

It is therefore ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that all claims and causes of action brought against Defendant MATTHEW WELCH in the above referenced cause are hereby dismissed with prejudice to refiling of the same. Any and all relief sought against Defendant MATTHEW WELCH not contained herein is hereby DENIED with prejudice.

It is further ORDERED that costs of court herein and any related claim or cause of action brought against Defendant MATTHEW WELCH shall be borne by the party incurring same.

SIGNED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

---

JUDGE PRESIDING

CAUSE NO: 2019-74071

DI XIANG ZHAO	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
	§	
	§	
	§	
VS.	§	HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY	§	
INSURANCE COMPANY AND	§	
MATTHEW WELCH	§	234 <sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**DEFENDANT UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY'S**  
**ORIGINAL ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION WITH**  
**REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURES**

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW, UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY, Defendant in the above-entitled and numbered cause and files this, its *Original Answer to Plaintiff's Original Petition with Request for Disclosures* and would respectfully show unto the Court the following:

**I.**  
**GENERAL DENIAL**

1. Defendant UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY ("UPC") asserts a general denial as is authorized by Rule 92 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, and requests that Plaintiff be required to prove his charges and allegations against UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY by a preponderance of the evidence as is required by the Constitution and law of the State of Texas.

**II.**  
**DEFENSES**

2. Defendant UPC denies that the required conditions precedent were performed and/or occurred.

3. The damages allegedly sustained by Plaintiff may have been the result of actions or omissions of individuals over whom UPC had no control, including but not limited to Plaintiff, therefore, UPC is not liable to Plaintiff.

4. UPC issued a policy of insurance to DI XIANG ZHAO, and UPC adopts its terms, conditions and exclusions as if copied *in extenso*.

5. The Policy does not cover wear and tear, marring, deterioration, mechanical breakdown, latent defect, inherent vice or any quality in property that causes it to damage or destroy itself.

6. The Policy requires direct, physical loss.

7. UPC is entitled to any credits or set-offs for prior payments by UPC or other third parties.

8. To the extent that Plaintiff's damages are determined to be the result of a failure by Plaintiff to take reasonable steps to mitigate the loss, those damages are not recoverable.

9. Plaintiff's extra-contractual claims alleging bad faith fail because a *bona fide* controversy existed and continues to exist concerning Plaintiff's entitlement, if any, to insurance benefits.

10. To the extent that all statutory and policy requisites have not been satisfied, this suit is premature.

11. Plaintiff's extra-contractual claims alleging bad faith fail because a finding of the existence of coverage for Plaintiff's underlying insurance claim is necessary to establish any basis for Plaintiff's extra-contractual, Insurance Code, and Deceptive Trade Practices Act claims. Because Plaintiffs' allegations are generally based on Defendant's alleged failure to investigate the claim and pay policy benefits, the existence of any applicable exclusions precludes Plaintiffs'

extra-contractual, Insurance Code, and Deceptive Trade Practices Act claims.

**III.**  
**REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURES**

12. Pursuant to Rule 194, Plaintiff is requested to disclose the information or material described in Rule 194.

**IV.**  
**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Defendant UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY, respectfully prays that Plaintiff DI XIANG ZHAO take nothing by his suit, that Defendant recovers costs, and for such other and further relief, both at law and in equity, to which Defendant may be justly entitled.

Respectfully Submitted,

LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP

By: /s/ Sarah R. Smith

Sarah R. Smith  
Texas State Bar No. 24056346  
Gene M. Baldonado  
Texas State Bar No. 24071065  
24 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1400  
Houston, Texas 77046  
Telephone: 713.659.6767  
Facsimile: 713.759.6830  
[sarah.smith@lewisbrisbois.com](mailto:sarah.smith@lewisbrisbois.com)  
[gene.baldonado@lewisbrisbois.com](mailto:gene.baldonado@lewisbrisbois.com)

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT  
UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY  
INSURANCE COMPANY

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that a true and correct copy of the above pleading has been forwarded pursuant to the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2019.

Chad T. Wilson  
Amanda J. Fulton  
Chad T. Wilson Law Firm PLLC  
455 East Medical Center Blvd., Suite 555  
Webster, Texas 77598  
Phone: (832) 415-1432  
Fax: (281) 940-2137  
[cwilson@cwilsonlaw.com](mailto:cwilson@cwilsonlaw.com)  
[afulton@cwilsonlaw.com](mailto:afulton@cwilsonlaw.com)  
[eservice@cwilsonlaw.com](mailto:eservice@cwilsonlaw.com)  
*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

*Via eService*

/s/ Sarah R. Smith  
Sarah R. Smith



HCDistrictclerk.com

ZHAO, DI XIANG vs. UNITED PROPERTY &  
CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY

11/13/2019

Cause: 201974071 CDI: 7 Court: 234

**DOCUMENTS**

Number	Document	Post Jdgm	Date	Pgs
88024359	Defendant United Property & Casualty Insurance Company's Original Answer to Plaintiff's Original Petition with Request for Disclosures		11/11/2019	4
	Defendant United Property & Casualty Insurance Company's Original Answer to Plaintiff's Original Petition with Request for Disclosures		11/11/2019	
87935653	Defendant United Property & Casualty Insurance Company's Election of Legal Responsibility Under Section 542A.006 of The Texas Insurance Code		11/05/2019	3
-> 87935654	Proposed Order of Dismissal with Prejudice of Defendant Matthew Welch		11/05/2019	1
87952489	Citation		11/05/2019	1
87704388	Citation		10/21/2019	1
87647208	Civil Process Pick-Up Form		10/09/2019	1
87512044	PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION, JURY DEMAND, AND REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE		10/08/2019	20
-> 87512045	Request for issuance of service		10/08/2019	2

**2019-74071**

**COURT:** 234th

**FILED DATE:** 10/8/2019

**CASE TYPE:** Debt/Contract - Consumer/DTPA



**ZHAO, DI XIANG**

Attorney: WILSON, CHAD TROY

**vs.**

**UNITED PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY**

Attorney: SMITH, SARAH RUSSELL

Docket Sheet Entries	
Date	Comment